

Appln. No. 10/077,215

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1273

II. Remarks

Claims 3-6 and 9-15 are rejected and/or objected to and pending in this application. By this paper, Applicants have amended claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, and 14 and have cancelled claims 6 and 12. Applicants have also added new claims 16-18. Accordingly, claims 3-5, 9-11, 13-18 remain pending in the application. Further review and examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge indication, by the Examiner, of allowable subject matter in dependant claims 3-5 and 9-11. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 have been amended into independent form, and claims 6 and 12 have been cancelled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,163,981 issued to Lawrence (Lawrence) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,549,764 issued to Biltgen et al. (Blitgen).

The Applicants have amended claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 into independent form, and have cancelled claims 6 and 12. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to depend from independent claim 9. In light of the indication, by the Examiner, of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5 and 9-11, the Applicants assert that claims 3, 4, 9, and 10, as amended, are allowable. Further, the Applicants assert that claims 13-15 are allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 9.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

New Claims

The Applicants have added new claims 16-18 to the present application. The new claims 16-18 are identical to dependant claims 13-15, except the new claims 16-18 depend from independent claim 10. The Applicants assert that new claims



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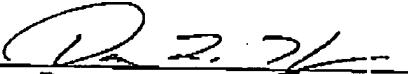
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16-18 do not constitute new matter, and that new claims 16-18 are allowable as depending, either directly, or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 10.

Conclusion

The Applicants assert that pending Claims 3-5, 9-11, and 13-18 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8-11-2005By: 

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